

August 12, 2020

Dear Members and Friends of The Old Scotch Church,

Session met last night and we want to keep the congregation updated with how the leadership is working on church matters, even though we are not able to gather in-person. Remember, we still worship every week with online worship at [www.oldscothchurch.org/sermons](http://www.oldscothchurch.org/sermons).

Of particular note for the congregation to hear from Session are these items:

- Worship and Music Commission meets weekly to provide online worship services. Given the state of Washington County still being in Phase 1, **Session voted to CHANGE the August 30 worship service from outdoor to online, given attendance limitations.** This online service will also include communion, since September 6 worship will be a live ecumenical service (more details coming). In addition, with ongoing Covid uncertainties, as well as weather changes, worship will stay online through at least November 1.
- Since worship will be online for another couple of months, please consider volunteering to be a liturgist or to provide Special Music! Volunteers can contact Maurine Granat ([kmgranat@helvetia.us](mailto:kmgranat@helvetia.us)) or Judy Charles ([judykcharles@gmail.com](mailto:judykcharles@gmail.com)).
- Building and Grounds Commission continues to take this time to care for building and grounds needs, with a special thank you to Loren McConnell for extensive power-washing. They are also installing a Fire Dept. access box to complete our fire safety plan.
- Business and Finance Commission gratefully thanks the congregation for ongoing stewardship, as we've come through the summer on solid financial footing.
- Cemetery Commission has worked hard on watering systems and will be posting signage about regular grave marker maintenance and removal of extraneous items.
- Christian Ed. Commission offered an online racial equity workshop, with an eye toward offering an online Fall study, led by Marty Bullis. Look for Aspire information soon!
- Mission Commission continues to celebrate the ways we have sought to Feed our Neighbors and Nurture our Souls with over \$5,000 going to Centro Cultural Relief Fund, and another \$3,000 given to replenish the Mission Fund for future needs.

Remember to stay at community with calls, cards, and emails, as well as joining in Zoom fellowship time each Sunday at 11 AM. We'll keep communicating through mid-week letters and Friday prayer lists, as well as constantly update our website. Any questions? Our church office remains closed to the public, but Jeff Uecker is working in isolation at church and can answer all of your questions! (Church phone: 503.648.9573; church email: [office@oldscothchurch.org](mailto:office@oldscothchurch.org))

As we transition from summer to fall this month, please keep praying for the many aspects of life each of us faces. At Session, I gave a devotion on St. Cyprian of Carthage, who led the church as a bishop for 10 years through two persecutions and a plague. Christians under his leadership became known as those who helped and those who were unswerving in faith. He often quoted James 1:2-4: Consider it pure joy, my brothers and sisters, whenever you face trials of many kinds, because you know that the testing of your faith develops perseverance. Perseverance must finish its work so that you may be mature and complete, not lacking anything. May we joyfully persevere – together!

Grace and peace,

*Pastor Tracie*